

a vegetable dye obtained from *Isatis indigotica* much used in the northern districts, and called *Tein-ching*; and it is not unlikely that it may be the substance which is employed. The Chinese never use these dyed teas themselves, and I certainly think their taste in this respect is more correct than ours. It is not to be supposed that the dye used can produce any very bad effects upon the consumer, for, had this been the case, it would have been discovered before now; but if entirely harmless or inert, its being so must be ascribed to the very small quantity which is employed in the manufacture.

In short, the black and green teas, which generally come to England from the northern provinces of China, are made from the same species; and the difference of colour, flavour, &c. is solely the result of the different modes of preparation.—*From Mr. Fortune's 'China.'*

Description of two new species of Shells. By WILLIAM CASE.

Helix annulata. Shell minute, much depressed—umbilicus showing all the volutions; aperture simple and somewhat oval; whorls four, banded by thin, sharp and parallel ribs, inclining slightly forward; intercostal space marked with waved lines, running parallel with the whorls; nearly transparent; diameter about one line.

This minute but beautiful shell was found by Captain B. A. Stanard, in the region about Lake Superior, and I have heard of its being observed in other places, but so far as I can learn, it is undescribed. It differs from any description of the *pulchella* I have yet met with, in having uniformly an *oval* aperture and *simple lip*. The *H. minuta* of Say, I believe never has the parallel ribs, and is supplied with a lip.

Planorbis multivolvis. Shell about five-eighths of an inch in diameter; whorls seven, about half of the last whorl overlapping the preceding one, sometimes the last whorl suddenly distorted and expanded for the last half of its length; right side concave, left side slightly acuminate and considerably carinate; throat campanulate; aperture opening towards the left, but projecting on both sides beyond the preceding whorl.

This shell also I obtained from Captain Stanard, who found it in the northern part of Michigan. It is very distinct from any *Planorbis* I have met with, or have been able to find any description of. I have named it from its strong characteristic—a greater number of whorls than usual in the genus.

Note.—The *Helix* here described approaches the *pulchella*, (*minuta* of Say,) a ribbed variety of which is called *H. costata*; yet it appears to be a distinct species. The *Planorbis* is most nearly allied to the *P. campanulatus*.—A. A. G.—*Silliman's American Journal*, Jan. 1847.

TRICHINA SPIRALIS.

Dr. Leidy stated, at a recent meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, that he had lately detected the existence of an Entozoon in the superficial part of the extensor muscles of the thigh of a hog. The Entozoon is a minute, coiled worm, contained

in a cyst. The cysts are numerous, white, oval in shape, of a gritty nature, and between the thirtieth and fortieth of an inch in length.

The Entozoon he supposes to be the *Trichina spiralis*, heretofore considered as peculiar to the human species. He could perceive no distinction between it and the specimens of *T. spiralis* which he had met with in several human subjects in the dissecting-rooms, where it had also been observed by others, since the attention of the scientific public had been directed to it by Mr. Hilton and Professor Owen.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MARCH 1847.

Chiswick.—March 1.—3. Cloudy. 4. Fine: cloudy. 5, 6. Cloudy. 7. Slight showers: uniformly overcast: clear. 8. Small rain: cloudy. 9. Cloudy. 10. Hazy: severe frost at night. 11. Slight haze: cloudy: frosty. 12. Clear. 13. Cloudy. 14—18. Clear, with bright sun. 19. Clear: cloudy. 20, 21. Cloudy: clear. 22. Hazy. 23, 24. Cloudy. 25. Foggy: clear: cloudy. 26. Slight haze: fine. 27. Foggy: fine. 28. Uniformly overcast: rain. 29. Very clear: cloudy: frosty. 30. Clear: cloudy: clear and frosty. 31. Frosty: cloudy.

Mean temperature of the month	40°·14
Mean temperature of March 1846	43·43
Mean temperature of March for the last twenty years... ..	42·91
Average amount of rain in March	1·36 inch.

Boston.—March 1—5. Cloudy. 6. Fine. 7. Fine: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 8. Cloudy. 9. Fine: snow A.M. and P.M. 10. Cloudy: hail and snow P.M. 11—13. Fine. 14. Cloudy. 15—18. Fine. 19. Fine: a luminous appearance of an extraordinary nature seen in the sky 9 P.M. 20, 21. Cloudy. 22. Fine. 23. Fine: rain P.M. 24, 25. Fine. 26, 27. Cloudy. 28. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 29. Fine: thick ice this morning: hail A.M.: rain P.M. 30. Fine: hail P.M. 31. Fine.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—March 1. Cloudy: clear. 2. Bright: clear. 3. Showers: clear. 4, 5. Cloudy. 6. Showers: cloudy. 7. Damp: cloudy. 8. Showers: snow-showers. 9. Snow-showers. 10. Snow: cloudy. 11. Showers: sleet-showers. 12. Showers. 13. Cloudy: showers. 14. Bright: cloudy. 15, 16. Cloudy. 17, 18. Bright: cloudy. 19, 20. Bright: clear: aurora. 21. Bright: clear. 22. Bright: large halo. 23. Damp: cloudy. 24. Damp. 25. Cloudy. 26. Damp: cloudy. 27. Cloudy. 28. Hail-showers: sleet-showers. 29. Shower: clear. 30, 31. Snow-shower.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—March 1. Thaw: slight rain. 2. Slight frost: very mild. 3. No frost: gray day. 4. Frost, slight. 5. No frost: clear and fine. 6. No frost: dull and cloudy. 7. No frost. 8. Slight frost: clear. 9. Frost, hard. 10. Frost, hard: sprinkling of snow. 11. Frost: sprinkling of rain P.M. 12. Frost again. 13. Fair and moderate weather. 14. Fair, but threatening: change. 15. Fair still, but cloudy. 16. Fair: rain P.M. 17. Rain all day. 18. Very fine: fair. 19. Very fine. 20. Rain: cleared P.M. 21. Heavy showers. 22. Fine: a few drops of rain. 23. Rain A.M.: thunder P.M. 24. Frosty: fine. 25. Slight frost. 26. Rain. 27. Very fine: rain A.M. 28. Clear and cold: slight snow. 29. Fair: cold: slight frost. 30. Fair: slight frost. 31. Slight snow: hail: frost.

Mean temperature of the month	42°·5
Mean temperature of March 1846	42·2
Mean temperature of March for 25 years	39·1
Mean rain in March for 20 years	2·35 inches.